

## § 123.1

AUTHORITY: Issued under authority of the President by 22 U.S.C. 3811; E.O. 12215, 45 FR 36043.

SOURCE: 31 FR 12322, Sept. 16, 1966, unless otherwise noted.

### § 123.1 Radio communication defined.

For the purposes of this part, unless the context otherwise requires, "radio communication" means the transmission by radio of writing, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds of all kinds, including all instrumentalities, facilities, apparatus, and services (among other things the receipt, forwarding, and delivery of communications) incidental to such transmission.

### § 123.2 Control of communications.

The Panama Canal Commission shall, subject to the provisions of this part, have control of radio communications in the Canal operating areas so far as concerns or affects vessels in Panama Canal waters or the navigation of such waters.

[46 FR 63193, Dec. 30, 1981]

### § 123.3 Radiotelephones required.

(a) Except for vessels operated by the Panama Canal Commission or another agency of the United States, the following vessels shall comply with the requirements of this section:

(1) Every power-driven vessel of 300 gross tons or over;

(2) Every power-driven vessel of 100 gross tons or over, carrying one or more passengers for hire; and

(3) Every commercial towing vessel of 26 feet in length or over.

(b) A vessel of a type described in paragraph (a) of this section shall be equipped with a radiotelephone which can be operated from the navigation bridge and which can be used to communicate on the following channels in the 156-162 MHz frequency band:

(1) Channel 12, 156.600 MHz;

(2) Channel 13, 156.650 MHz;

(3) Channel 16, 156.800 MHz.

(c) A vessel of a type described in paragraph (a) of this section, which has notified the Traffic Management Division that it is ready to transit or otherwise navigate in Panama Canal waters and requires a Panama Canal pilot, shall, until a pilot boards the vessel, maintain a continuous watch on Chan-

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nel 12. Channel 12 will be used for notification to vessels of their transit time and for advisory harbor control communication in Limon Bay.

(d) A vessel of a type described in paragraph (a) of this section shall maintain a continuous watch on Channel 13 when under way in Panama Canal waters for bridge-to-bridge navigational communications only. One watt maximum power shall be used on that frequency, except that in emergencies or unusual circumstances more power may be used. When such vessels have a Panama Canal pilot aboard, Channel 13 may be used only by the pilot or at his direction for navigational communications.

(e) The Signal Stations on Flamenco Island and in Cristobal may be called on Channel 12 or 16. Channel 16, however, is reserved for cases of distress, urgency, safety and calling only. Once radio contact is established on Channel 16, another channel should be selected for routine communications.

[41 FR 21778, May 28, 1976, as amended at 46 FR 63193, Dec. 30, 1981; 48 FR 6709, Feb. 15, 1983; 54 FR 37331, Sept. 8, 1989]

### § 123.4 Advance notification required by radio from vessels approaching the Canal.

(a) Vessels approaching the Panama Canal shall communicate by radio to the Traffic Management Division not less than 48 hours in advance of arrival at the Canal (or earlier if radio communication is practicable at an earlier time), the information required by this section unless this information has been previously communicated to the Canal authorities by other means. Symbols of the phonetic alphabet shall be used to identify each item and the word "NEGAT" shall be used after the items that can be answered "no", "none", or "not applicable". The following items of information shall be provided.

ALFA—The Panama Canal Identification Number of the vessel.

BRAVO—Estimated date and time of arrival, port of arrival and request for Canal transit if desired.

CHARLIE—Estimated draft upon arrival, and estimated transit draft if scheduled to work cargo or take bunker prior to transiting, in meters, fore and aft, in Tropical Fresh Water.